



State Rehabilitation Council *Legislative Update*

January 2011

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Events

January

10 Legislative Session Begins

March

1 Please join us for our
Annual Legislative Breakfast
on
March 1, 2011
From 7 to 9 a.m.
in the West Wing of the
State Capitol Building

The State Rehabilitation Council welcomes you to the 2011 State Legislative Session

The Mission of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is to provide a voice for consumers and stakeholders with a goal of maximizing employment and independent living for Iowans with disabilities.

Working in partnership with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) the SRC reviews and evaluates agency activities and helps develop agency goals and priorities.

One role of the SRC is to provide an annual report to the State Legislators and the Governor. This year the SRC has elected to provide an electronic monthly newsletter to save costs and allow an efficient way to communicate about current activities within the SRC and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

If you have any questions or issues, please feel free to contact the State Rehabilitation Council through Jane McCord at Jane.McCord@iowa.gov or 515-281-6731. We look forward to working with you to provide the services and support disabled Iowans need to obtain and succeed in their employment goals.

SRC Members

Mari Reynolds
Chair

Joan Bindel
Vice Chair

Craig Cretsinger
Christine Urish
Jeff Mikkelsen
Angela Gandrud
Mark Plutschak
Vivian Ver Huel
Barbara Guy
Daniel Hoffman-Zinnel
Jacqueline Wipperman
John Mikelson
Dwight Carlson

IVRS Staff to SRC

Jane McCord

SRC undertakes Consumer Satisfaction Survey

The SRC undertook a customer satisfaction survey to help determine how well IVRS is meeting consumer needs and find ways to improve future services. This is only one of the ways the SRC helps assure that quality services are provided to Iowans who qualify for IVRS services.

88.4%

Percentage of consumers whose cases are closed and report being satisfied or very satisfied with their job

89.4%

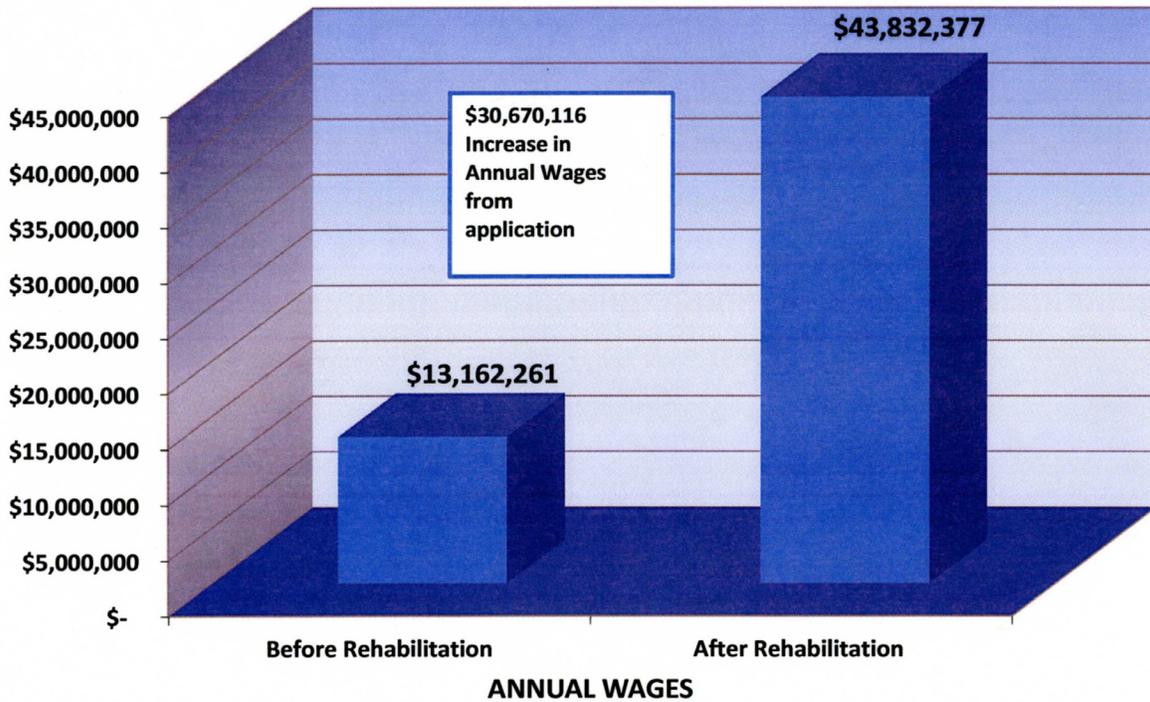
Percentage of consumers who are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of services through Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

75.7%

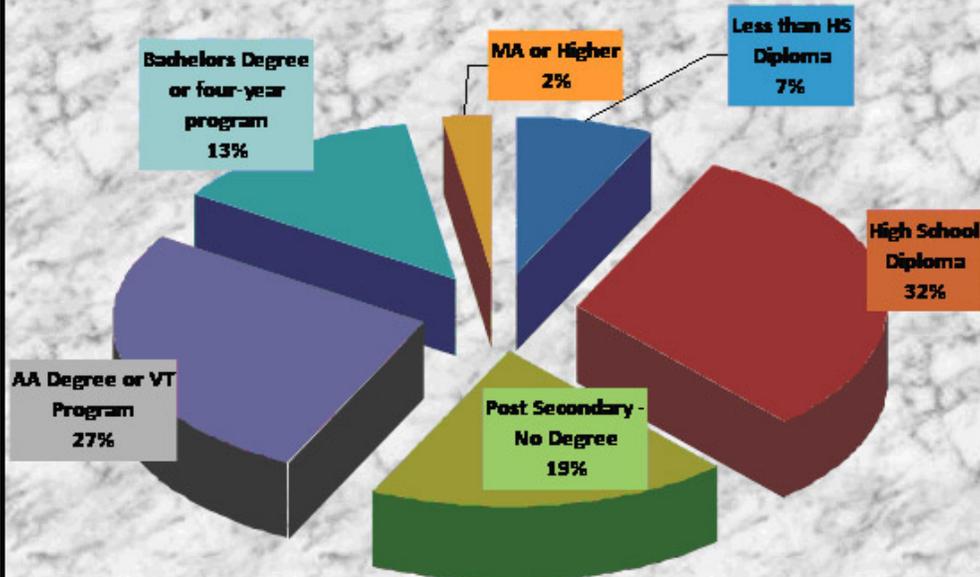
Percentage of consumers report being more financially independent because of their job.

IVRS in 2010

ECONOMIC IMPACT *After Rehabilitation Services*



Hires by Educational Level

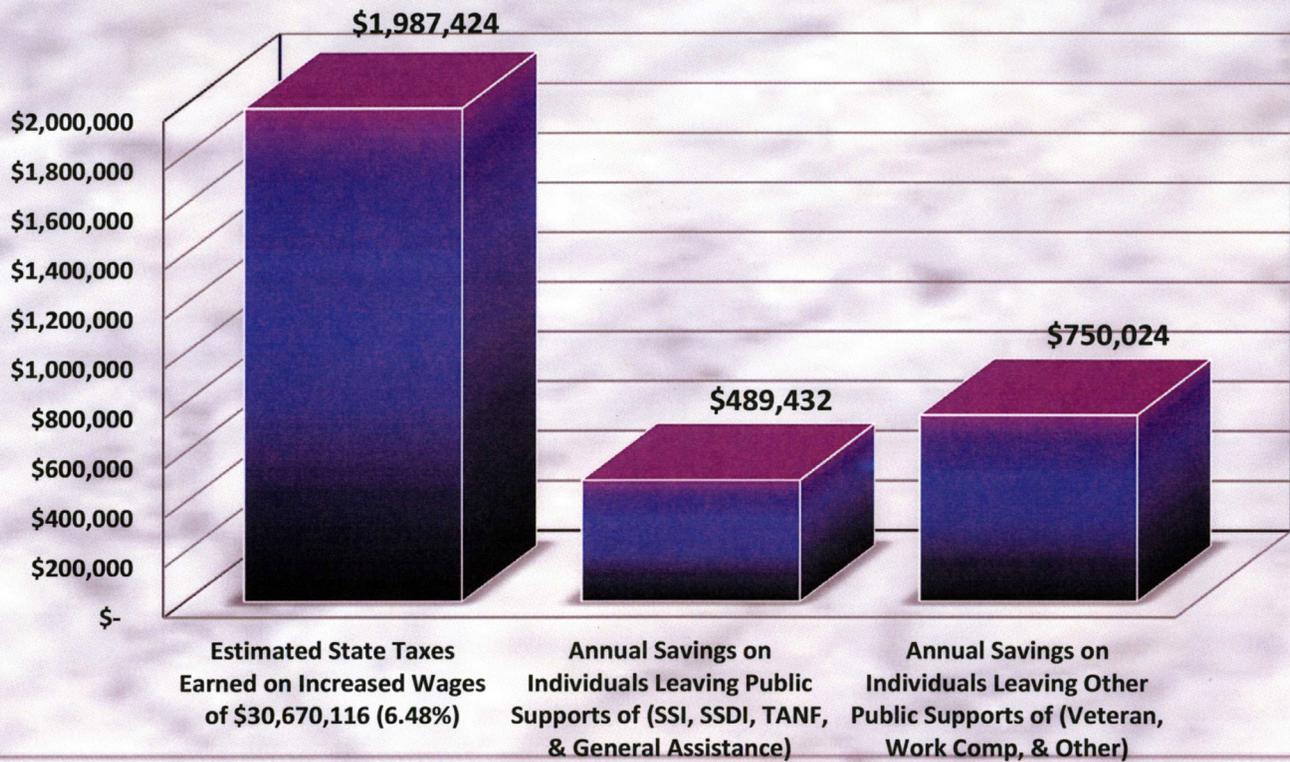


98% of successful closures remain in Iowa

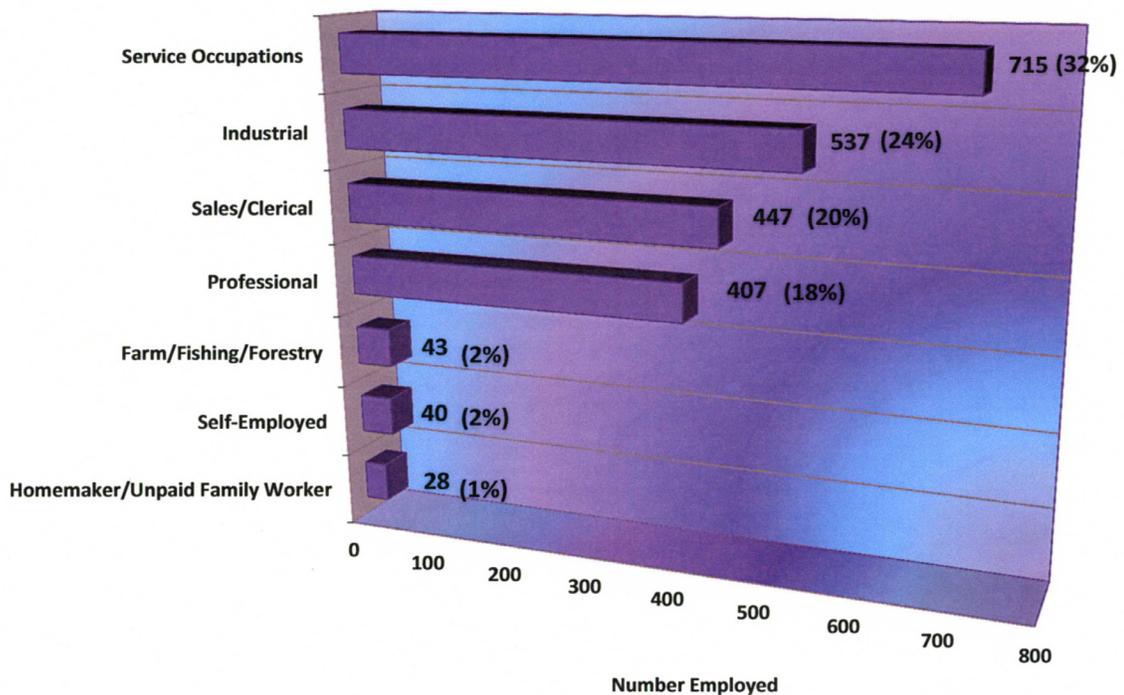
There are **3,825** people on a waiting list to be served by IVRS

After 10 years, the state receives an average **\$294** return on every **\$100** of state appropriation originally invested in VR clients

Estimated Increase in State Taxes and Annual Savings on Public Supports

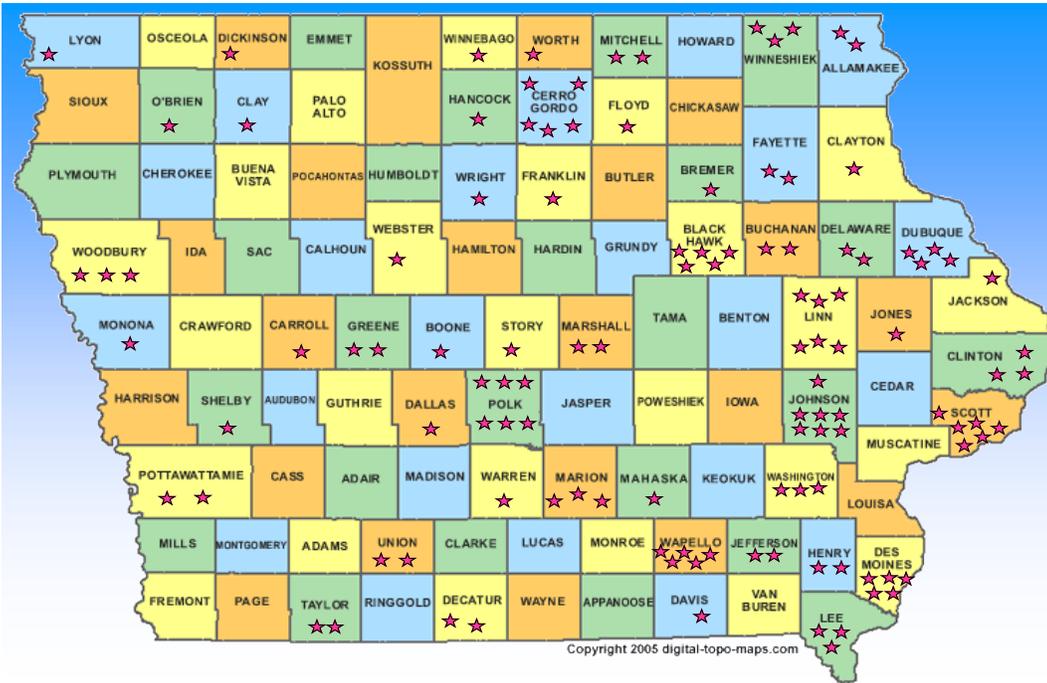


OCCUPATIONS of the 2,217 Individuals Rehabilitated



IOWA SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM – WE MEAN BUSINESS!

Feature



Iowa Entrepreneur
Emilea Hillman (and Jerri)

Read more about this young entrepreneur in these publications:

- Alliance for Full Participation
- Independence Bulletin Journal

Helping 117 Iowans achieve success in Self-Employment in FY 2008–2010.

Barista Newsletter

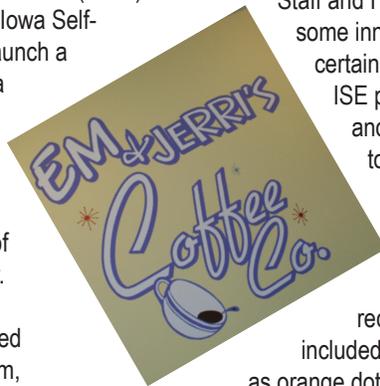
Iowa Self-Employment Program helps bring business success

November 10, 2010

Dear Senator Schoenjahn,

There are undoubtedly a number of great things happening in your district, but I believe there is a special story that deserves some extra attention. Emilea Hillman is a client of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) who utilized the services of the Iowa Self-Employment (ISE) program to launch a coffee shop in your district. As a Business Development Specialist in the ISE program, I had the privilege to work with Emilea and want to share with you the business success of an amazing young entrepreneur.

Born with a rare birth defect called Agenesis of the Corpus Collosum, Emilea's parents were told she would most likely need to be institutionalized. The defect results in the partial or total absence of the structure that connects the hemispheres of the brain, preventing communication between the two sides. The Corpus Callosum coordinates signals from different parts of the brain and facilitates thinking. Emilea also has hydrocephalus, requiring a shunt to be placed in her head to relieve pressure and prevent further damage to fragile brain tissue.



Emilea came to Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, seeking assistance to pursue her desire to work and find a place that would allow her to do so. She wanted to be self-employed and open a coffee shop in Independence, Iowa. With family support and a job coach to assist with strategies regarding functional limitations, IVRS counselor Lois Staff and I determined that, with some innovative services, this was certainly a feasible job goal. The ISE program provided financial and technical assistance to Emilea to help make her dream of business ownership a reality. IVRS also provided funding for Emilea to receive barista training that included special task cues such as orange dots and audible sounds to assist with equipment usage, as well as flash cards designed by her job coach to help with task memorization.

Em and Jerri's Coffee Shop celebrated their grand opening earlier this year. It is a local favorite serving daily lunch, specialty coffee and teas, pastries, and ice cream. Not only does the coffee shop fulfill a need in the community for a local gathering spot, it also employs three individuals with disabilities at a rate higher than the employment wage



opportunities that might otherwise be available.

As a part of the ISE program process, I look forward to providing follow-up consultative services to Emilea over the next 24 months and watching her growth as a small business owner and accomplished individual. IVRS serves many Iowans like Emilea who are considered "Most Significantly Disabled." It has been a privilege to work with Em on her self-employment journey. She seldom misses a day and works 40 hours a week.

What a wonderful example of using the funds allotted by the Iowa legislature to help turn a tax-consumer into a tax-payer and independent business owner!

Kochell Weber-Ricklefs
IVRS Business Development Specialist

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Events

VA Central Iowa Health Care Recognized for Employing Persons with Disabilities

Spotlight



VA Central Iowa Health Systems received employer recognition for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. From left to right: Donald Cooper, Director; Sabrina Owen, Human Resource Director; Eric Krohn, Human Resources Specialist; Cain Davis, EEO Manager; Walter Gwenigale, Assistant Human Resources Director for the VA Central Iowa Health Care System.

Each October, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) recognizes an Iowa employer that provides leadership and support to provide job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

This year VA of Central Iowa Health Care has been recognized for the development of a State and Federal Partnership that has helped employ nearly 20 persons with disabilities.

Read more



Julie Trembath-Neuberger received the Friend of Rehabilitation Award from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services Bureau Chief Kenda Jochimsen during the October National Disability Employment Awareness Month Recognition hosted by the Mason City Area Office.

Mason City Area Office holds recognition

On October 29, 2010 the Mason City Area Office honored Iowans with Disabilities and the employers that have hired them! Kiefer Built received an employer of the year award and Opportunity Village received the award for being the partner of the year. Several clients with disabilities that IVRS assisted with job placement provided testimonials on their success with employment.

This event was held at Titonka State Bank (TSB) in Forest City, Iowa. The information provided helped focus attention on the abilities and contributions of persons with disabilities and their importance to the labor market needs of North Iowa.

Last year the Mason City office assisted 213 Iowans with Disabilities find employment through vocational



guidance and counseling as well as direct relations with the local businesses.

Read about this event in *The Globe*

Area Offices

Burlington Area Office

1000 North Roosevelt
Burlington, Iowa 52601
319-753-2231

Dubuque Area Office

820 Locust Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-6705
563-588-4697

North Central Area Office

1525 Airport Road, Suite 102
Ames, Iowa 50010
515-233-5753

West Central Area Office

510 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515-281-4211
WATS 1-800-532-1486 (Voice/TTY)

Cedar Rapids Area Office

4403 1st Avenue SE, Suite L-10
(Lower Level)
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-3221
319-294-9308

Fort Dodge Area Office

Two Triton Circle
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-573-8175

Ottumwa Area Office

651 Indian Hills Drive, Suite 2
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501-1473
641-682-7569 (V/TTY)

For more information visit our Website at

Council Bluffs Area Office

300 W. Broadway, Suite 33
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503-9030
712-328-3821 (voice/TTY)

Iowa City Area Office

1700 South 1st Avenue, Suite 25-D
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
319-354-4766

Sioux City Area Office

2508 East 4th Street
Sioux City, Iowa 51101-2298
712-255-8871

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Davenport Area Office

902 West Kimberly Road
Davenport, Iowa 52806
563-445-3280

Mason City Area Office

600 South Pierce Avenue
Mason City, Iowa 50401-4836
641-422-1551

Waterloo Area Office

3420 University Ave., Suite D
Waterloo, Iowa 50701-2008
319-234-0319 (Voice/TTY)



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**Vocational
Rehabilitation
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Finding solutions. Generating success.